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NOV 14 2000

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Dear Sirs

FCC MAIL ROOM

I am in opposition to  
petitions for reconsideration  
of the reported order on  
video description. I am  
blind and enjoy video  
description.

99-339

Keep it up

Michael Peshe  
7300 Orchard  
Dearborn Mich 48126

per. Edw. Peshe  
father

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Douglas B. Stip  
813 Park St.  
Minot, ND 58701

7 November, 2000

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket 99-339

Dear Secretary Salas,

On July 21, the FCC ruled television and cable networks must make video description available to the blind and visually impaired by April of 2002. My wife Mary and I would like to express our thanks and support of this decision. We both are visually impaired and would enjoy television even more with the addition of video descriptive services.

Video description allows those with low vision to access television and videotaped programs which otherwise would be inaccessible to them. These services would broaden the audience for broadcasting services, bringing entertainment, news, and sports into the homes of those to whom television merely exists as another noisemaker, which doesn't make sense to them.

The major television networks and the National Federation of the Blind have not, to my knowledge, provided any new information not already known since the FCC made its decision.

This is a courageous move on the part of the FCC on behalf of blind and visually impaired people. Please stand by the decision.

We look forward to seeing these services in place by April 2002.

Sincerely,

*Doug & Mary Stip*

Doug and Mary Stip

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Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554  
Dear Ms. Salas:

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FCC MAIL ROOM

RE: Docket # 99-339

I admire the heroic vote by the Commissioners of the FCC requiring the networks to provide necessary information to those who are blind <sup>and</sup> visually handicapped.

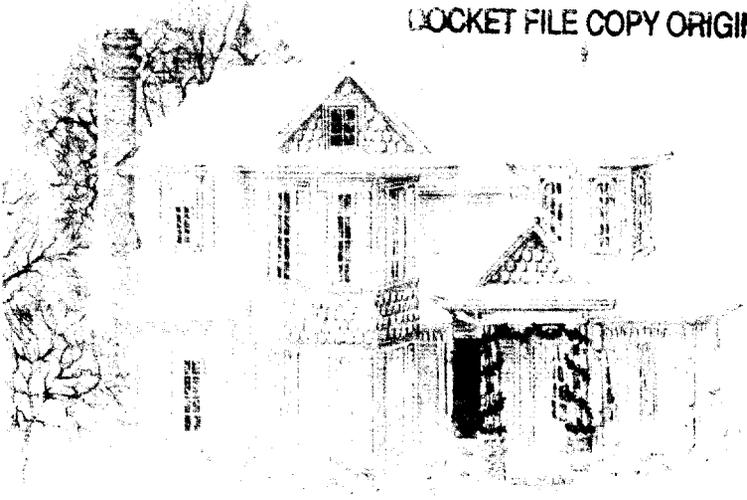
It's important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means of knowing what's happening on the television. I'm looking forward to turning on my TV set in April, 2002, to enjoy television shows & to use the video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

Is it possible for the Commissioners of the FCC to insure this continuing service for the handicapped despite present <sup>and</sup> future opposition?

Thank you for all your efforts in aiding the visually impaired <sup>and</sup> handicapped.

Very Truly Yours,  
Anna Soha

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816  
Cedar

RE: DOCKET NO. 99-339  
Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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NOV 14 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

99-339

Dear Secretary Salas,

I am writing in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

My family and I appreciate the FCC for your vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential service.

I have been trying to get it for many years. I was thrilled when I found reference to this service and have exhausted the few videos that use video description. My cable company Time Warner Cable does not provide video description even though my television is equipped for this service. Since I need cable in order to get reception, I must rely upon them to get video description.

The value of video description is the difference between communication and no communication. It makes TV usable by the sight impaired and enriches their lives totally as well as serves as their primary source of news and information.

The numbers of sight impaired and blind are greater today than ever and increasing rapidly. My eye doctor just told me that he has large numbers of macular degeneration patients now whereas ten years ago he only had one or two patients with this disability.

Sincerely,  
Denise O'Daly

*Denise O'Daly*

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5885 North Central Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46220-2509  
November 8, 2000

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms Salas:

This is regarding docket #99-339,

This letter is in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

We as visually impaired individuals wish to express our appreciation to the Commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description service for people who are blind or visually impaired.

It is very important for anyone who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means for knowing what's happening on the television. Words cannot express how much video description means to us. It has allowed us to enjoy movies and plays with family and friends and given us a real feeling of independence. We have been looking forward to turning on our televisions in April, 2002, to enjoy shows with family and friends and to use the video description to help understand the visual aspects of the programming.

We want to be able to enjoy the same programming as others. Thanks for giving this request your consideration.

Sincerely,



Don and Gerry Koors

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Magalie Salas Sect.

The Federal Communications Commission Re:Docket 99-339 <sup>FCC MAIL ROOM</sup>

We as a group of visually impaired and blind clients of the Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind of Pasco County, Florida, commend the efforts of the commissions of the F C C for their courages vote ,requiring the networks to provide this essential information service to the Blind and Visually Impaired.

All the people in our group can see little or no picture at all on our T.V, screens. We do need an alternate of video discription to understand what ever may be going on , on our T.V. screens, not much unlike the captions for the hearing impaired. Before T.V. , we had radio . We would listen to a story, that was quite discriptive and visualize exactly what was happening.

These comment, submitted are in opposition to petitions for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

Sincerly-



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Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC. 20554

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Re Docket 99-339

FCC MAIL ROOM

Ladies and Gentleman,

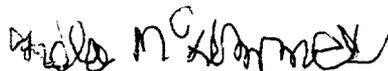
I am a Blind, retired Social Worker and I now help run 2 support groups for the Blind and Vissually Impaired. Everyone in my groups and myself were excited beyond words when you people agreed to include audio description with TV programming beginning in April 2002. We Can't wait!!!

I understand you have received "Petitions To Reconsider", however, it seems to me that they are asking you to reconsider the decision you have already made, and that they are not giving you any new reasons to debate, YOUR DECISION SHOULD STAND.

Only if you are Blind or visually impaired can you fully appreciate the value of this service as I have.

I, and my groups of Visually Impaired people are urging you to please leave your decision stand as is.

Thank You  
Nola McKinney



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Venice Chapter of the  
**Florida Council of the Blind**

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*Affiliated with the American Council of the Blind*

NOV 14 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

**c/o Frederick Duda**  
**4884 Kestral Park Circle**  
**Sarasota, FL 34231**  
**Phone: 941-921-5426**  
**E-mail: fredduda@worldnet.att.net**

November 5, 2000

Ms. Magalie Salas  
Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Salas:

As Secretary of the Venice Chapter of the Florida Council of the Blind, I have been asked to write to you about our concern that the FCC maintain its position on the July ruling which will require television networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers by April 2002. We are writing specifically about Docket No. 99-339 and are opposed to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

At our meeting on October 31, the membership of the Venice Chapter voted unanimously on a motion to have our directors write to you about our concern. The Venice Chapter has 61 members.

Our membership is most grateful to the FCC for its vote requiring television networks to begin providing an essential information service to citizens who are blind and visually impaired. This service will provide a vital link for us to news, entertainment, and society. We are well aware of the benefits of the service through our experience with descriptive videos, which have reopened to world to us. We know that the FCC understands how important it is for citizens with visual disabilities to have a service that enables them to enjoy and understand what is going on in the world and to share their experiences and understanding with their sighted friends and family members.

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We believe that the FCC understands the social limitations imposed on blind and visually impaired citizens and urge you to maintain your position in opposition to those who intend to violate our rights as set forth in the Americans With Disabilities Act. It is disheartening to realize that opposition to a service that is clearly in keeping with the ADA is occurring on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the ADA into law.

We urge you to maintain your stand and not give in to those who wish to isolate blind citizens from the rest of the community.

Sincerely,



Frederick Duda

Please note the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the other officers of the Venice Chapter of the Florida Council of the Blind:

**President:** Lillian Reilly, 516 Sante Joseph St., Venice, FL 34285, 941-485-0932

**Vice-President:** Joel Bauer, 8147 Chesebro Ave., North Port, FL 34287, 941-426-0554

**Membership Secretary:** Dorothy Cook, 1096 Ruisdael Circle, Nokomis, FL 34275, 941-485-7601

**Treasurer:** Esther Houston, 137 Inlets Blvd., Nokomis, VL 34275, 941-488-1138

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FCC MAIL ROOM

DOROTHY COOK  
1096 RUISDAEL CIRCLE  
NOKOMIS, FL. 34275  
941-485-7601

November 5, 2000

Margalie Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket \*99-339

Dear Ms. Salas:

I want to thank the commissioners of the FCC for their vote requiring networks to begin providing essential information service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

It is very important to me, personally, being almost totally blind to know what is happening on the TV screen. Often I feel completely isolated from programs others are enjoying.

I have had the wonderful experience of receiving some video tapes which have included an audio-descriptive track and I can tell you that it has made a world of difference in my understanding of what is going on on the screen.

There has been no new information provided by the petitioners to rescind the FCC decision. There has been no new information provided since the ruling of July 21, 2000. I sincerely hope that the ruling will not change the original courageous decision to provide for those of us who cannot see this valuable source of information.

Sincerely yours,

*Dorothy S. Cook*  
Dorothy S. Cook

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Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc.

680 E. Market Street, Suite 205  
Akron, Ohio 44304

(330) 762-0007 - Voice

(330) 762-7416 - FAX

1-800-750-0750 - Relay

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November 6, 2000

NOV 14 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

Ms. Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket No. 99-339; Comments in opposition to petitioners  
for reconsideration of the reported order on video  
description

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing in support of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruling, July 21, 2000, requiring television networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of television programming for the blind and visually impaired viewers by April, 2002.

This vote by FCC Commissioners was a courageous move towards having the major television networks meet the needs of all their viewers. The television networks are a large, powerful force in the entertainment industry, but they also provide one of the most affordable means of entertainment. This entertainment should be provided in whole to all viewers, including persons who are blind or visually impaired. I would like to thank the FCC for your vote requiring the networks to begin providing this essential informational service to people who are blind and visually impaired.

This Center for independent living has several blind and visually impaired consumers who enjoy many shows and sporting events on television. Many times they have friends describe the events taking place on the screen so that they may better understand the events and underlying humor on the show. When they are watching the television alone, they miss, often crucial, segments of the shows, and miss the whole idea being put forth. It is important for those who cannot see the screen to have an alternate means, like video description, for knowing what's happening on the television. They are looking forward to turning on

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Serving People With Disability - Summit, Stark, Portage Counties

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and the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission

Page Two  
Letter - Ms. Magalie Salas

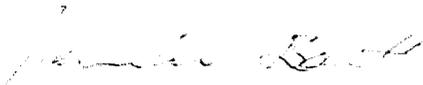
their television set in April, 2002, or before, and enjoying television shows with their family and friends, and using the video description to help them understand the visual aspects of the programming.

I am aware that the television, cable and motion picture industry are petitioning the FCC to "reconsider" this important vote. This ruling is a positive step into the future for the visually impaired, and ensuring that the electronic age includes all members of society. This ruling would allow visually impaired and blind people to go into a movie theater and get every undertone and every comic gesture, in essence, "see" the whole movie, video or television program.

The petitioners have not provided any information which they have not already presented at the time the FCC reached the decision and issued the ruling. They are just trying to, at the least, stall the starting date of the ruling, and at best, get the ruling reversed. These industries are powerful and do not want to spend the money for video descriptions for what they believe is a small portion of their consumer base. The fact remains that as the population grows increasingly elderly, visual impairments naturally come with age, and that portion of the industry's consumer base will grow over the coming years. There is a need for this type of programming now and the need will only grow in the future.

Please stand firm in your ruling requiring television networks to begin providing video description of the key visual elements of the television programming for blind and visually impaired viewers by April, 2002.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Bentley  
Advocacy Specialist

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KNAUPER  
410 LAFAYETTE, #3  
MEDINA, OH 44256

To: Magalil Sales, Sec.  
Federal Communications Commission

Nov. 7, 00

445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW

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Washington, DC 20554

NOV 14 2000

FCC MAIL ROOM

F. C. C.:

On Docket # 99-339 and the "Petition to Reconsider" your ruling to provide descriptive means to visually impaired people:

The visually impaired greatly appreciate your original ruling, which would open a whole new experience to those unable to experience most of the all-pervading TV experience. Education, not only entertainment, is involved, for the handicapped of all ages.

It's hard to understand why titles and sign language are accepted, but the blind and poorly sighted are not given a similar courtesy. I hope the F. C. C. will hold its ground. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Knauper

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Doranna Robertson  
420 E. Main Ave., No. 600  
Bismarck, ND 58501

MS. Magalie Salas  
Secretary FCC  
445 Twelfth St. S.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

99-339

Re: Document No. 99339

Dear MS. Salas:

I sincerely hope there will be further consideration on this document concerning descriptive video. As a blind person, it is every bit essential to have the description of a documentary, news item, or movie. Any story is meant to be TOLD, and if the telling of it can be embellished by music, scenery, description of actions, it is so much more complete. Elderly viewers enjoy the description, also.

Please do what you can to make description a part of TV. Weather reports on TV without speech are useless to us. People who might like to purchase something advertised on TV would surely like it described impartially.

Thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Doranna Robertson

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Karen Lynn Thomas  
5601 Abilene Trail  
Austin, Texas 78749  
512.892.2579  
[kdco@concentric.net](mailto:kdco@concentric.net)

NOV 4 2000

11/04/00

November 3, 2000

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington DC 20554

I am writing to submit comments in opposition to petitioners for reconsideration of the reported order on video description Docket No. 99-339. As a person who is visually impaired, I was thrilled last summer when I heard that the FCC had passed a rule making video description for television programming a reality on all the networks. As undoubtedly you are aware, children and adults who are visually impaired currently only have access to video description on PBS programs and the action you have taken will ensure access to a much wider range of programming. The addition of audio descriptions of what appears on the screen makes television viewing a much richer experience for those without good vision and I thank you for your consideration and willingness to ensure that people who are blind have equal access to mainstream television broadcasts. The petitioners who are challenging video description have not presented any additional information that was not known at the time of the decision and therefore the decision should be upheld. Please stand firm in your commitment to making products and services accessible to people with vision impairments. So much can be gained by providing children and adults who are blind or low vision with the same information people who are sighted receive visually. It goes a long way toward helping us become full participants in society instead of being on the sidelines. The ability to discuss a popular show knowledgeably with people who are sighted assists us in knowing what is going on in the world, making connections, and eliminating barriers. Please don't deprive television viewers who have vision impairments of the full educational and entertainment value of television programming that only video description can provide.

Sincerely,

*Karen Lynn Thomas*

Karen Lynn Thomas

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SECRET

Hope and Al Pietrolungo  
4334 Slater Avenue  
(410) 529-9475

79-339

Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington DC 20554

November 9, 2000,

Dear Secretary Salas:

Please consider this letter as comments IN OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE REPORTED ORDER ON VIDEO DESCRIPTION.

First, my wife and I wish to thank the commissioners for the courageous decision last Summer to require descriptive video during prime time broadcasting on television..

In our view, the industry will never voluntarily adopt a requirement to have descriptive video. We believe the history of the descriptive video dialogue shows that this statement is an accurate one.

We have had limited experience with descriptive video as a result of the industry decision not to use it widely. However, we have watched shows on public television which are described, and video description does significantly enhance our enjoyment of the program and appreciation of those scenes we cannot understand. We have also spent time with a group of blind friends where we rent some movies which are video described. We have a ball when we are able to get together and understand what is happening on the screen.

We hope the commissioners will affirm the decision you made this Summer. Based on our reading of the comments, the opponents to descriptive video have not provided any new information or arguments. Accordingly, there is no substantial basis for reconsideration. It is one more indication that they will resist any voluntary effort to secure descriptive video.

Thank you for considering our comments.  
Sincerely,

Hope and Al Pietrolungo

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*C. I. [unclear]*

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FCC MAIL ROOM

2752 Herace Ln NW  
Mason, MS 39191  
Nov 6, 2000

FCC - Magalie Salas, Sec.  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Subject: Docket # 99-339  
Video Description

Thank you for working to provide "video description" by Apr 2002.

I am blind and live alone. I have also experienced it before and I found it helpful and enjoyable.

I support you in all your efforts to help me and others like me in this cause -

Most sincerely yours -  
Billy B. Smith  
(written by a relative)

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November 8, 2000

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Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S. W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Frank Warner, Sr.  
810 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

Re: Docket Number 99-339

Attention: Magalie Salas, Secretary

I am writing to express my appreciation to the commissioners of the FCC for their courageous vote requiring the networks to begin providing video description for television programming.

I am blind and until the day I sat with my wife and enjoyed watching a movie with the help of video description I had no use for television as it was for sighted people. There were too many non-speaking parts which required vision to understand what was taking place. With the help of descriptive video I was able to follow and enjoy the movie. It provided enjoyment in a world of darkness.

I am looking forward to turning on our television in April 2002 to enjoy shows with my family and friends using video description to help me understand the visual aspects of the programming.

Again I wish to say thank you to the Commissioners of the FCC for considering the blind and visually impaired in their vote for descriptive video. It is my understanding that they have received petitions to reconsider and that these petitioners have not provided any new information not already known at the time the FCC reached its decision and issued the ruling. Please stand firm on this ruling as the blind and visually impaired deserve the right to enjoy television as much as the sighted world does.

Sincerely,

*Frank Warner, Sr.*  
Frank Warner, Sr.

gw

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*C*

430 La Mina Ave,  
Ajo, AZ 85321  
November 7, 2000

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Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Document 99-339

This letter is being submitted in opposition to petitions for reconsideration of the reported order on video description.

First of all, let me say I was so delighted to learn that this document was even brought up for consideration and I want to thank the FCC for it's support of this issue.

While I was not surprised to learn that there was opposition from groups like movie makers, television producers and cable companies, I must say I was shocked and saddened to learn that persons from the National Federation of the Blind are apparently also in opposition. Perhaps they may consider themselves the "Super Blind" who do not need to have the added benefit of knowing what persons look like and their actions, I, for one, do!! I have been most appreciative of the descriptive video on some of the Public Television programs as well as the movies being made available to me in a form allowing me at least some equality with my sighted friends in knowing what is going on in a particular program. The enactment of this ruling is no less needed than that which provided visual captions for the deaf.

It is my understanding that the petitions to reconsider this ruling have not brought forth anything new that was not already known at the time of the ruling.

Again, my deepest thanks for your July ruling and I trust it will remain in effect so that we who are blind might enjoy more fully our television programs and movies.

Sincerely,



SHARON BOOKER

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Magalie Salas, Secretary  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Salas;

This is an official filing concerning Document No. 99-339.  
I am writing in support of reconsideration of the petition  
order on video description.

I am a blind person. I consider that a great deal of the  
information on television is decoration. I am not worried about  
how the villain is hiding behind a pillar and pulling out his  
dagger silently. I can live without that part being described.  
In my experience most of the people who do the audio descriptions  
give far too much description, and I turn off that part, anyway.

The part of the information that I WANT FROM THE SCREEN  
IS THE NAME OF THE PERSON SPEAKING WHICH IS DISPLAYED ON A  
SMALL PLATE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SCREEN. Another thing I  
consider important is the "crawler" that warns me of severe  
weather. Only the character in the story will die if I don't  
know about the villain, but I may die if I don't know about  
the approaching tornado. Let's get the critical things first  
and leave the decorative frosting on the cake until later.

I am an active member of the National Federation of the  
Blind, and I support the N.F.B. position reconsider the decision  
on video descriptions.

Yours truly, *Thomas Bickford*

Thomas Bickford

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